

Tenneco Minerals  
A Tenneco Company

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MINERALS PROGRAM  
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November 20, 1990

DIVISION OF  
OIL, GAS & MINING  
State of Utah  
Utah Bureau of Water Pollution Control  
288 North 1460 West  
P.O. Box 16690  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-0690

Attention: Mr. Don A. Ostler, P.E., Director

Re: Goldstrike Mine  
Release of Process Solution

Dear Mr. Ostler:

This letter is in response to your November 2, 1990 letter to Mr. Ken Kluksdahl. Listed below are the four action items that you presented in your letter and Tenneco Minerals' response to each item.

1. **"A detailed examination of the facility must be conducted as soon as the heap is drained".**

Draindown of Pad 1 is currently in progress. The pregnant line from Pad 2 has been re-routed into a separate solution transport system; therefore, this flow no longer combines with Pad 1 solutions. Investigation activities will commence after significant draindown of Pad 1 occurs. For a description of Tenneco Minerals' planned investigation activities, please refer to the attached letter to Lyle Stott dated November 20, 1990.

A report summarizing the results of the investigation will be prepared and submitted to the Bureau within two weeks after the data from the investigation is compiled. The report will also include a proposed corrective action plan as well as a plan for any necessary remediation.

2. **"Please submit your water balance reports so we can evaluate the amount of solution released."**

The intermittent nature of solution application, varying saturation, evaporation, and heap draindown make it extremely difficult to develop an accurate water balance. Tenneco records daily pond levels (to the nearest 50,000 gallons), plant throughput, heap delivery, and make-up needs (as



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required). However, since both Pad 1 and Pad 2 were operational at the time of the release, these recorded levels include solution flows to and from the pads; thereby, making it even more difficult to apply a water balance method to ascertain a release from Pad 1.

Tenneco Minerals will, to the extent practicable, address the amount of solution released as a part of the investigation. Tenneco Minerals will utilize the information and data acquired during the investigation to determine if the amount of released solution can be reliably quantified. If the released solution cannot be reliably quantified by this method, Tenneco Minerals will evaluate other potential methods. The investigation report will contain a summary of Tenneco Minerals' findings.

3. **"A proposal for remediation of the spill areas must be submitted within two weeks from receipt of this letter."**

In order to propose any necessary remediation measures, a thorough investigation must first be conducted. At this time, Tenneco Minerals believes that appropriate measures cannot be proposed without additional geotechnical and environmental data. Our plan is to submit the findings of the investigation together with a proposal for corrective action and any necessary remediation. Tenneco Minerals will submit this information to the Bureau within two weeks after the data from the investigation is compiled.

4. **"Operation on Pad No. 1 must not resume until the causes for the breach have been identified and remedied and a written approval is given by this office."**

Tenneco Minerals' goals in the coming weeks are to: 1) work closely with the Bureau and other appropriate regulatory agencies on all related activities, and 2) conduct the investigation and implement appropriate corrective action measures in a safe and expeditious manner.



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Tenneco Minerals intends to provide periodic updates to the Bureau until the situation is satisfactorily resolved. The Bureau will be notified prior to the initiation of the above described investigation activities to allow a representative to be present on-site to observe the investigation.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, please call me at (303) 987-6256.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Brannum  
Division Environmental  
Specialist

DAB/ssm

cc:

Mr. Kiran Bhayani - UBWPC  
Mr. Bill Dawson - Southwest Local Health Department  
Mr. Wayne Hedburg - DOGM  
Mr. Neil Taylor  
Mr. Lyle Stott - UBWPC  
Mr. Wayne Thomas - District Engineer, St. George